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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981 for the purpose of receiving voluntary contributions for distribution, through established channels of humanitarian assistance to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of torture and to their relatives, priority being given to victims of torture by States in which the human rights situation has been the subject of resolutions or decisions adopted by the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or the Commission on Human Rights.

2. The Voluntary Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of a chairman and four members with wide experience in the field of human rights, acting in their personal capacity and appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments. The membership of the Board of Trustees is as follows: Mr. Jaap Walkate (Chairman) (the Netherlands); Ms. Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica); Mr. Waleed Sadi (Jordan); Mr. Ivan Tosevski (Yugoslavia); and Mr. Amos Wako (Kenya).

3. In its resolution 36/151, the General Assembly authorized the Board of Trustees of the Fund to promote and solicit contributions and pledges. It also appealed to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund. By the same resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to give the Board of Trustees all the assistance it may require. The Secretary-General reports annually to the Assembly and to the Commission

on Human Rights on the administration of the Fund. The previous reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly are contained in documents A/37/618, A/38/221, A/39/662, A/40/876, A/41/706, A/42/701, A/43/779, A/44/708 and A/45/633.

4. In its resolution 45/143 of 14 December 1990, the General Assembly, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/633), expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Governments, organizations and individuals that had contributed to the Fund and to the Governments that had pledged a contribution at the 1990 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities; called upon all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for initial as well as further contributions to the Fund; invited Governments to make contributions, preferably on a regular basis, in order to enable the Fund to provide continuous support to projects that depend on recurrent grants; requested the Secretary-General to include the Fund, on an annual basis, among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities; expressed its appreciation to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the work it has carried out and to the Secretary-General for the support given to the Board by carrying out its decisions on an increasing number of projects; and requested the Secretary-General to make use of all existing possibilities, including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials, to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its efforts to make the Fund and its humanitarian work better known and in its appeal for contributions.

5. Since the report of the the Secetary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, the following contributions to the Voluntary Fund were received from Goverments during the period from 24 October 1990 to 23 October 1991:

Government	Contribution (United States dollars)	
Austria	6 000 for 1991	7th contribution
Denmark	173 430 for 1990	8th "
Finland	174 640 for 1991	10th "
Germany	135 750 for 1990	8th "
Iceland	2 410 for 1990	5th "
Ireland	3 572 for 1991	7th "
Italy	30 000 for 1991	2nd "
Japan	50 000 for 1990	5th "
Netherlands	26 806 for 1990	9th "
New Zealand	17 676 for 1991	7th "
Norway	99 985 for 1991	6th "
Spain	34 799 for 1991	6th "
Sri Lanka	500 for 1990	2nd "
"	500 for 1991	3rd "
Switzerland	15 748 for 1990	4th "
"	7 901 for 1991	5th "
Tunisia	1 299 for 1991	1st "
Yugoslavia	5 000 for 1991	1st "

6. In addition, during the same period, the following pledges to the Voluntary Fund were made by Governments:

Government	Pledge (United States dollars)	
Chile	2 000 for 1991	First pledge
Greece	5 000 for 1991	Eight prior contributions
Italy	30 000 for 1991	(See para. 5 above)
"	30 000 for 1992	
"	30 000 for 1993	
Liechtenstein	7 692 for 1991	Three prior contributions
Sweden	SKr 1 000 000 for 1990	Four prior contributions
"	SKr 1 000 000 for 1991	
United States of America	100 000 for 1991	Three prior contribitions Three prior pledges (see para. 7 below)

7. The following pledges to the Voluntary Fund are still pending:

Government	Pledge (United States dollars)
United States of America	90 000 for 1988
"	100 000 for 1989
"	100 000 for 1990

8. During that period, a contribution of $US 3,000 was made by the Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers). A contribution of $US 250 was received from Fordham University (New York, United States of America) in lieu of a honorarium for the participation of Mrs. Elissavet Stamatopoulou-Robbins in a study programme organized by the University.

9. Contributions have also been received from Mr. Noël Caillard (F 100), Mr. Peter Hodson (collection £124,50), Ms. Rita Maran ($US 20), Ms. Ethel North ($Can 300) and the Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists (collection of donations by private individuals: $US 6,109).

10. The Secretary-General received from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Fund additional information on the Board's activities, which is annexed to the present report.

ANNEX

Information on the activities of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, provided by the Chairman of the Board

1. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Chairman wishes to express its deep gratitude to all Governments, organizations and, last but certainly not least, to the individuals who have contributed to the Fund over the past years. Those contributions have enabled the Board to make recommendations on a sizeable number of grants for the benefit of victims of torture all over the world. All those contributions were very welcome indeed.

2. The Board is also delighted that Member States contribute to the Fund on an annual basis. The Board has found that regular contributions facilitate the support of larger projects in the long run. Therefore, it is the wish of the Board that pledges materialize rather soon after they have been made, since pledges as such cannot be taken into account for long-term planning.

3. During its tenth session, held at Geneva from 17 to 26 April 1991, the Board of Trustees of the Fund examined information prepared by the Secretariat concerning 104 projects, including analyses of narrative reports, financial reports and audits on the use of grants made in previous years, as well as requests for continuing assistance and new projects. The Board also heard 21 representatives of organizations implementing 28 of these projects.

4. The Board of Trustees recommended to the Secretary-General, who approved those recommendations, that 72 new grants should be made from the Fund. Fifty-eight of these grants, corresponding to 59 projects and sub-projects, representing an amount of $US 2,025,700, deal with continuing support for projects approved in the past and 14, representing an amount of $US 273,000, deal with 11 new projects and sub-projects. The total amount of the grants recommended is $US 2,238,700 for 1991 and $US 60,000 for 1992. This brings the total of commitments to $US 2,298,700. During its tenth session, the Board also took note that seven projects were terminated (concerning seminars, training sessions, etc.) and it recommended that seven should be cancelled for lack of information on the proposed projects.

5. The projects recommended by the Board are carried out in about 40 countries and benefit persons from many other countries. As in the past, the focus of the Board's recommendations was on supporting programmes providing direct medical, psychological, social or other assistance to torture victims and their family members. The Board also made recommendations for support to training programmes for health professionals of several countries on the techniques of treatment of victims of torture, as well as for meetings of health professionals, in which they could compare their experience.

6. At its tenth session, the Board also reviewed and discussed a number of other projects on which it has not made recommendations for support because they were outside the Fund's mandate or further particulars were needed.

7. The Board, in reviewing the projects under way, felt that it would be important for its members to have a first-hand understanding of how projects are carried out and how the Fund's resources are used. It therefore recommended that members of the Board should visit some of the most important projects to see them in action and discuss project progress and needs with sponsors. The Board recommended that a member of the Board should visit a project in his or her geographical region.

8. The guidelines adopted at the ninth session for dealing with emergency individual cases (see A/45/633, para. 10) were found satisfactory and properly implemented by the Secretariat. The same procedure should be retained in 1991-1992.

9. The Board recommended that the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 should set aside some time to meet as a pledging conference for United Nations voluntary funds, such as the United Nations Volunteers Fund for Victims of Torture. It appeared to the Board that the forum of the World Conference would be an excellent means for Member States to translate their policies and intentions in the field of human rights into concrete financial terms by pledging a contribution to the Fund(s). This suggestion was submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference (see A/CONF.157/PC/6/Add.9).

10. The Board renewed its recommendation that its sessions should be scheduled in principle in April of each year. At its tenth session, the Board very much appreciated its meetings with the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Chairman of the Committee against Torture and recommended that similar meetings should be organized at its eleventh session and, therefore, that part of its session should be scheduled to coincide with part of the session of the Committee against Torture.

11. At its tenth session, renewing its continuing concern for optimal use of money of the Fund for assistance to victims of torture and their families, the Board also very much appreciated the discussion with officers of the Financial Resources Management Service and it recommended that a similar meeting should be organized at its eleventh session.

12. The length of the eleventh session (on the basis of eight working days), agenda and timetable should stay the same as in 1991. If possible, interpretation services in Spanish should be made available during the entire session.

13. The Board had worked, last April, under excellent conditions and appreciated the expertise and devotion of the staff. It expressed the hope that this will again be the case in 1992 and that the problems that the staff was still encountering in view of the ever-increasing number of projects would be solved.

14. The Board insisted that the maximum amount of money available to the Fund should be spent for assistance to victims of torture and their families. It underlined that almost all the funds available for grants at the tenth session had been recommended to the Secretary-General for disbursement, as was the case at the ninth session, and that it intended to continue this practice in the future, provided that satisfactory requests for grants could be favourably recommended.

15. With an increasing number of contributions and requests for assistance, the highest standards should be applied to procedures followed by the Board and the Secretariat. The Board, therefore, continued reviewing its own procedures and the guidelines for applications for grants. An improved application form was prepared that is reprinted, for practical purposes, in an appendix to this annex.

APPENDIX

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture - Fonds des Nations Unies pour les victimes de la torture
Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para las Victimas de la Tortura
UNVFVT - FCVNUVT - FCVNUVT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - DESCRIPTION DU PROJET - DESCRIPCION DEL PROYECTO

P. ( )

1. Short title of project /
Nom abrégé du projet /
Nombre abreviado del proyecto

2. Date submitted / de soumission / Fecha de sumisión :
3. Countries concerned / Pays concernés / Países interesados :

4. Type of assistance offered / type d'aide offerte / tipo de asistencia ofrecida :

a) Medical / Médicale / Médica [ ]
b) Psychological / Psychologique /Psicológica [ ]
c) Social / Social [ ]
d) Training of professional / Formation de professionnels / Formación de profesionales [ ]
e) Meetings / Réunions / Reuniones : [ ]
f) Publications / Publicaciones : [ ]
g) Research / Recherche / Investigación : [ ]
h) Other (specify) / Autres (préciser) / Otros (precisar)

5. Organization and person in charge of the project /
Organisation et personne responsables du projet /
Organización y persona responsable del proyecto :

Mailing address /
Adresse postale /
Dirección postal :

Tel., fax, telex :

Bank of your organization, account No., address /
Banque de votre organisation, No de compte, adresse /
Banco de su organización, No de cuenta, dirección :

6. Sponsoring organization /
Organisation patronnant le projet /
Organización patrocinadora del proyecto :

7. Detailed summary of assistance to be provided to victims of torture /
Résumé détaillé de l'aide à fournir aux victimes de la torture /
Resumen detallado de la ayuda que se prestará a las víctimas de la tortura :

a) Kind of assistance /
Type d'aide /
Tipo de ayuda :

b) Number of persons assisted and nationalities /
Nationalités et nombre des personnes aidées /
Nacionalidades y número de las personas objeto de la ayuda :

c) Geographical area covered /
Aire géographique couverte /
Area geográfica cubierta :

d) Staff required /
Personnel requis /
Personal que se necesitará :

e) Envisaged duration and steps of projects /
Durée et étapes envisagées du projet /
Duración y etapas previstas del proyecto

8. Please annex a provisional budget, indicating the total amount needed for the whole project, the amount requested from the Fund and its envisaged use / Veuillez joindre un budget prévisionnel indiquant le montant total du projet, ainsi que le montant global para el proyecto en su conjunto y el monto solicitado al Fondo, así como el destino de éste.

9. Please indicate clearly the part of your provisional budget which you are requesting the Fund to support / Détaillez ci-dessous la partie du budget affectée à votre projet que vous sollicitez du Fonds / Detállese la parte del presupuesto destinada a su proyecto que se solicita del Fondo :

TOTAL Fund / Fonds / Fondo : _____

10. General provisional budget of your organization / Budget prévisionnel général de votre organisation / Presupuesto general de su organización :

TOTAL GENERAL: _____

11. Other sources of financing / Autres sources de financement / Otras fuentes de financiación :

12. Please indicate if this project is already functioning and if it is a new project or a new aspect of an existing project / Veuillez indiquer si ce projet fonctionne déjà et s'il s'agit d'un nouveau projet ou d'un nouvel aspect d'un project déjà existant / Detállese si este proyecto ya funciona y si es nuevo o si se trata de un aspecto nuevo de un proyecto ya existente :

13. Please indicate the envisaged starting date / Veuillez indiquer sa date prévue de démarrage / Indíquese la fecha de comienzo prevista :

14. Will you develop this project with other organizations (please specify) ? / Développerez-vous ce projet avec d'autres organisations (veuillez détailler) / Detállese si este proyecto se desarollará en conjunto con otras organizaciones :

15. Organizations or specialists on the treatment of victims of torture accepting to offer reference for this project / Organisations ou spécialistes dans le traitement de victimes de la torture acceptant de servir de référence pour ce projet / Organización o especialistas en el tratamiento de victimas de tortura quien aceptan ser una referencia por este proyecto:

- NOTA BENE -

The Board of Trustees gives priority to funding medical, psychological, social and, to a smaller degree, economic assistance, as directly as possible, to the victims of torture and their families. The assistance may cover administrative expenses if it is to support the costs of doctors, psychologists, therapists and others helping victims of torture and their families / Le Conseil d'administration donne, en priorité, son soutien à une aide médicale, psychologique, sociale et, à un moindre degré, économique, aussi directe que possible aux victimes de la torture et à leur famille. Ce soutien peut couvrir des frais administratifs s'ils sont directement liés au travail des médecins, psychologues, thérapeutes et autres professionnels qui assistent les victimes et leurs familles / La Junta de Síndicos da prioridad a la asistencia médica, psicológica, social y, en menor grado, económica, dirigida lo más directamente posible a las víctimas y sus familiares. La asistencia puede concederse para los gastos administrativos si están relacionados directamente con el trabajo de médicos, psicólogos, terapeutas y otros que ayudan a las víctimas y sus familiares.

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TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 45/219 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly, having considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/634) and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), 1/ strongly reiterated its urgent desire that the Institute sell its headquarters property at the earliest reasonable opportunity, preferably within the next 12 months; requested the Secretary-General to appoint an appropriately qualified high-level independent consultant, to be paid from extrabudgetary resources, who would submit a report directly to the Secretary-General containing recommendations on: (a) the continued relevance of the mandate of the Institute, a review and assessment of all aspects of its current activities and an assessment of whether those activities could be more effectively carried out by the Institute or by other bodies of the United Nations system; (b) the overall staffing requirements for the Institute; (c) the financial means for meeting all those needs, based on the findings; and (d) the feasibility of utilizing the facilities of the Institute for the training of personnel for peace-keeping operations; also requested the Secretary-General to submit the report of the independent consultant to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the Board of Trustees of the Institute for comment and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session; requested that the budgetary proposals of the Institute continue to be submitted to the Advisory Committee for review and comment prior to approval by the Board of Trustees; reaffirmed that the activities of the Institute that were not funded from the General Fund, should continue to be funded through voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and other non-governmental sources; agreed with the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the Institute should, immediately after the sale of its property, repay the amounts currently owed to the United Nations; decided to take a decision on the future of the Institute at its forty-sixth session; encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to explore new modalities for greater interfacing among United Nations research bodies, and requested the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to continue to organize meetings of United Nations research institutes with a view to enhancing practical cooperation among them.

2. In so far as the General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of its resolution 45/219, decided to take a decision on the future of the Institute at its forty-sixth session, in accordance with the provisions of Assembly resolution 42/197 of 11 December 1987, the present report focuses on relevant matters pertaining to that decision. Accordingly, it presents the latest information available on the financial situation of the Institute, including a summary of relevant action taken by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Board of Trustees of UNITAR and an account of the most recent developments pertaining to the sale of the UNITAR headquarters property. In section IV, the report deals with the recommendations contained in the report of the high-level independent consultant. The outcome of the meeting of United Nations research institutes, organized by the Director-

General for Development and International Economic Co-operation pursuant to paragraph 10 of Assembly resolution 45/219, is reviewed in an annex to the present report.

II. FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

A. 1991 budget

3. The Executive Director of UNITAR presented an expenditure budget for 1991, consistent with General Assembly resolution 42/197, amounting to $1,450,323, together with a budget for programme support costs amounting to $345,023. The combined estimate for 1991 of $1,795,346 compared with $1,613,150 budgeted for 1990 represents an increase of 11 per cent. Actual expenditures for 1990 incurred under the General Fund had reached $1,547,200 against an actual income of $849,600, a shortfall of $697,600.

4. The proposed budget contained the following elements of income:

General Fund:	(United States dollars)
Government contributions	350 000
Rental income	170 000
Interest income	10 000
Publications and royalties	10 000
Advance from the United Nations	910 323
Subtotal	1 450 323
Project support income	345 023
	1 795 346

5. Pursuant to the request contained in General Assembly resolutions 43/201 of 20 December 1988, 44/175 of 19 December 1989 and 45/219, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the 1991 budgetary proposals for UNITAR as submitted by the Executive Director prior to its review by the Board of Trustees of the Institute.

6. In its comments, 2/ the Advisory Committee reiterated its recommendation that the format and presentation of the UNITAR budget should be modified to conform with that used by the United Nations in its programme budget. The Committee was also of the view that there should not be any discrepancy between the figures given in the submission and those reflected in the year end financial report and account. Furthermore, the Committee noted that there were increases in expenditures over the previous year as well as new items of expenditures included in the 1991 estimates. Given the fact that there was a decline in expected income, the Committee believed that at best all expenditures of the Institute should show zero growth in real terms. In this connetion, the Advisory Committee recalled that, in its 1990 report on the

UNITAR budget proposals, 3/ it had, in view of the continued financial difficulties of the Institute, called for the Executive Director to reduce the number of established posts and, for the same reason, recommended that the proposed reclassification of two P-5 posts to the D-1 level, not be implemented. The Committee also noted with particular concern that an advance of $910,323 from the United Nations was needed to balance the budget. This denoted a steep rise in the advance needed from the United Nations each year, as well as a significant addition to the steadily mounting debt of UNITAR to the United Nations. With regard to the sale of the UNITAR property in New York, the Advisory Committee recalled that its objectives were to enable UNITAR to eliminate its financial liabilities, to repay the sum of approximately $4.4 million advanced by the United Nations for the purchase of the land, plus interest, and to use the balance to set up a reserve fund to sustain the Institute in future operations. In view of the continued increase in the Institute's debt and of the current unfavourable state of the real estate market in New York, the Advisory Committee pointed out that, even if the property were sold at that time, the balance after repayment of the debt to the United Nations and the interest income accruing on the balance may very well not be sufficient to cushion the Institute's budget against future shortfalls. Finally, the Advisory Committee found a lack of precision and clarity in the presentation of estimated income and expenditure against the special purpose grants and programme support activities. The Committee recalled in that connection that it had made a similar comment with regard to the previous year's submission.

7. The Board of Trustees of UNITAR considered the draft programme and budget of the Institute for 1991 at its twenty-ninth session, held in New York from 13 to 17 May 1991. In that context, the Board took note of the pertinence of the views expressed by the Advisory Committee in 1990 on the timetable of budget preparations by UNITAR. Considering the peculiar conditions of the Institute characterized by the unpredictability of the level of voluntary contributions to its General Fund, the Board felt that UNITAR should continue to prepare its budget according to the prevailing arrangements until its financial problems were settled.

8. With respect to the 1991 budget proposals of the Institute, the Board shared the strong reservations expressed by its Finance Committee and the Executive Director of UNITAR on the new expenditure items relating to the maintenance of the Institute's premises at Geneva and the costs of security services, both of which contributed to a significant increase in the proposed 1991 budget as compared to the 1990 approved budget. The Board requested the Executive Director to explore all options that would enable the Institute to reduce the cost of security services and invited him to discuss the matter with the United Nations. The Executive Director was also requested to raise queries with the United Nations about the high-level rent being requested for the UNITAR Geneva-based office.

9. With these two reservations, the Board adopted the 1991 General Fund budget at the level of $1,450,323 and programme support costs of $345,023, while expressing concern over budget increases despite the continuing

financial difficulties of the Institute. The Board accordingly invited the Executive Director to do his utmost in implementing the approved programme and budget for 1991 to make the greatest possible additional savings.

B. Budgetary performance in 1991

10. The budgetary performance for the current year continues to be a source of grave concern. Income has been somewhat below expectations, while expenditures have been incurred at or close to budgeted level. Accordingly, the amount owed by UNITAR to the United Nations has continued to rise in 1991.

11. With respect to income in 1991, government contributions received during the nine-month period ending as at 30 September 1991 amounted to $332,571, against a budgetary estimate for the year of $350,000, a shortfall in government contributions of $17,429. Actual income received so far has reached $625,622.

12. At the same time, as at 30 September 1991, expenditures, including expenditures against programme support income, amounted to $1,377,521. The expenditures will thus be at or close to budgeted amount.

13. In addition to amounts included in the UNITAR budget, certain costs have continued to be temporarily charged outside the budget of UNITAR through a reserve account set up three years ago. It was understood that this account would be replenished in full as soon as the sale of the UNITAR property is completed. As at 30 September 1991, cumulative expenditures against this reserve account amounted to $1,272,126, broken down as follows:

Pension liabilities	$363 463
Staff costs (staff affected by the restructuring)	756 040
Security	152 623
Total	$1 272 126

14. As at 30 September 1991, the debt of UNITAR to the United Nations, reflecting previous shortfalls and deficits, stood at $4,744,095 and can be estimated to reach approximately $5.1 million by the end of 1991.

15. To this debt must be added an amount of $4,416,152 advanced by the United Nations in 1989 for the purchase of the land on which the UNITAR building stands. Under the conditions of the loan set by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the funds advanced for this purpose are to be repaid with interest equivalent to the average rate of investment return that would otherwise have been carried by those funds. The related amount is projected to total $0.6 million by 31 December 1991.

16. Thus, the total indebtedness of UNITAR to the United Nations is projected to reach $10.1 million by 31 December 1991.

III. SALE OF UNITAR HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

17. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 45/219, the General Assembly expressed its urgent desire that the UNITAR property be sold "preferably within the next twelve months". In response to the request of the Assembly, the Committee on the UNITAR Headquarters Property, established by the Secretary-General, continued to explore all possible options for the sale of the building at a price that would meet the goals set by the Assembly in its resolution 42/197, i.e., to enable UNITAR to repay its debt to the United Nations and establish a reserve fund for its long-term financing. Although the Committee has exerted its best efforts in this regard, it has been unable to do so, owing to the prolonged and continuing slump in the real estate market in New York City which has adversely affected the marketable value of the property and which is not expected to recover in the near future.

18. Against this background, an expression of interest to acquire the property was received from the Nordic countries, first in the form of a proposed swap of the UNITAR property for some 35,000 square feet of space in a proposed building to be constructed on that and an adjoining property, and then, as an outright purchase. This offer, however, fell short of the minimum level considered satisfactory to meet the goals set by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/197. The Nordic countries eventually withdrew their offer, mainly because they had found more convenient alternate premises.

19. A number of other options were also taken up by the Committee. One such option would have consisted in listing the property with a real estate agent on an exclusive basis. Other options were raised by the Board of Trustees of UNITAR at its twenty-ninth session held in May 1991. These included the acquisition of the property by the United Nations and its utilization for necessary additional space; the possible sharing of the existing building between the United Nations and UNITAR; and the possibility of the United Nations renting part of the building from UNITAR. The Board envisaged that, if a decision were taken by the United Nations to acquire the building, possibilities of adding additional floors in the building might have to be explored in order to meet future office space requirements. As these options involved additional upfront financing and/or retention of the property by the United Nations, they could not be considered by the Committee on the UNITAR Headquarters Property within the scope of its mandate. In addition, the Committee felt that the issue of the UNITAR property had become incidental to the core issue of UNITAR's future. In the circumstances, any further work by the Committee would have to await action by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the recommendations pertaining to the future of UNITAR of the high-level independent consultant appointed by the Secretary-General.

IV. LONG-TERM ISSUES

20. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 45/219, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Francis Blanchard, the former Director-General of the International Labour Organisation, as the high-level independent consultant responsible for the report requested in that resolution. The report of the independent consultant is contained in the annex to document A/46/482 for consideration by the Assembly. Its recommendations focus on the relevance of the UNITAR mandate, including provisions for peace-keeping functions, a new structure for UNITAR and budgetary and personnel matters.

21. As requested in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 45/219, the Secretary-General submitted the report of the independent consultant to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the Board of Trustees of UNITAR for their comments.

22. The Board of Trustees considered the report of the independent consultant at a special session held in New York from 9 to 11 September 1991.

23. In introducing the report to the Board, the independent consultant stated that he held the view that the mandate remained valid and that he had therefore excluded the possibility of closing down the Institute. The independent consultant also indicated that he had deliberately refrained from presenting several options and that, instead he had selected one such option that he deemed to be the most appropriate. Accordingly, he recommended that, while the mandate of the Institute remained valid, training should be kept up and expanded. Although research should not be entirely eliminated from the range of the Institute's activities, its research work needed to be redefined and reoriented essentially as a function of training, which should then become the main responsibility of the Institute as already agreed upon by the General Assembly.

24. The Board commended the independent consultant for his candid and comprehensive report which, in its view, contains interesting and innovative ideas which, if implemented, would contribute to solving the difficulties of the Institute. It was pointed out that it was essential to address all issues accounting for the crisis affecting the Institute in order to ensure that the proposed restructured Institute would not be confronted by similar difficulties in the future. The Board agreed with the independent consultant that the mandate of UNITAR remained valid and that, within the context of that mandate, training activities should be streamlined to meet the new requirements and obligations of the United Nations and its Member States. The Institute's training activities should therefore include, as recommended by the independent consultant:

(a) Training in international cooperation and multilateral diplomacy, including diplomatic training for Member States in cooperation with their national institutions, especially those of developing countries;

(b) Training for economic and social development;

(c) In-service training of United Nations and specialized agency personnel;

(d) Training for the preparation of nationals of developing countries interested in international couriers; and

(e) Training for peace-keeping operations.

25. With respect to research activities, the Board also agreed that they too needed to be streamlined with a view to enhancing the activities of the United Nations. In addition to research on training, research activities should concentrate on the improvements of the United Nations system and the maintenance of peace and security.

26. In chapter IV of his report (see A/46/482, annex), the independent consultant recommended a new structure for the Institute. The Board agreed that the Director of the restructured Institute should no longer be an Under-Secretary-General, but an official with the rank of D-2. As a consequence of this proposal, the Board noted that UNITAR would no longer be a member of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). The Board felt, however, that UNITAR should continue to participate in the activities of the ACC subsidiary machinery. The independent consultant also recommended that, in its new form, UNITAR should have its headquarters at Geneva, while keeping an outpost in New York with some senior fellows on its staff. The Board agreed with that recommendation as well, noting however that the transfer of the UNITAR headquarters to Geneva raised the issue of the disposition of the UNITAR building in New York. The Board also noted that the move of the UNITAR headquarters to Geneva, the justification of which was so well substantiated by the independent consultant, would not necessarily solve the financial and confidence crisis facing the Institute.

27. With respect to the recommendation of the independent consultant related to the placing of a redesigned UNITAR under the aegis of the United Nations University (UNU), the Board noted the reasons for the recommended linkage. It deemed unclear, however, the nature of the linkage (association or incorporation?) and its impact on UNITAR and its future. The Board felt, moreover, that the consequences of the linkage, including the functioning of the current organs of UNITAR, should be carefully investigated before committing the Institute.

28. The Board of Trustees welcomed and endorsed the clarification made by the independent consultant regarding the funding of the Institute. This clarification was brought to the attention of the Secretary-General by the independent consultant in a letter dated 10 September 1991. In that letter, it is stated that:

> "The Board asked me to clarify my proposals on an important point which I deem necessary to bring to your attention and, through you, to the General Assembly. I am referring to the mode of financing of the General Fund of the Institute in the context of the new structure which I

recommend. This problem is dealt with in paragraph 77 of my report. In response to questions, I clearly indicated that the only solution that could ensure the financial stability indispensable to the functioning of the Institute would be to include a budgetary line of about $2 million in the budget of the United Nations.

"I therefore recommend adoption of this course of action which might, as appropriate, be accompanied by the secondment of United Nations staff dealt with in paragraph 80 of my report."

29. The Board noted with concern that the new arrangements recommended by the independent consultant would not resolve the issue of UNITAR's debt to the United Nations. Such new arrangements should therefore be completed with a view to solving the problem. In this respect, until market conditions make advisable the sale of the UNITAR building, the Board of Trustees recommended that the free space available in that building should be rented in order to reduce UNITAR's debt to the United Nations.

30. Taking note of the staffing recommended in the report of the independent consultant, the Board suggested that the proposed staffing should be considered as indicative in order to allow the Director of the new Institute to design an appropriate staffing taking into account the actual needs of UNITAR. The Board also recommended that, in implementing the proposal concerning the transfer of UNITAR to Geneva, the United Nations should give due consideration to the welfare of the existing UNITAR staff and that, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 42/197, no UNITAR staff member should suffer loss of rank or benefits as a result of the restructuring measures proposed by the independent consultant.

31. In keeping with its mandate, the Board decided to hold its thirtieth session from 10 to 14 February 1992 in order to examine the decision of the General Assembly on the report of the independent consultant and ensure, as appropriate, the proper implementation of UNITAR's activities in 1992.

32. In conformity with General Assembly resolution 45/219, the Secretary-General transmitted the report of the high-level independent consultant to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for its comments, together with the conclusions thereon of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR. The Committee's views will be forwarded to the Assembly as soon as they become available.

33. The Secretary-General fully agrees with the opinion stated by the consultant in his report that a durable and sustained renewal of the Institute requires a thorough reformulation of its mandate. In his annual report on the work of the Organization, 4/ the Secretary-General has highlighted the need to strengthen the United Nations in the light of the evolving needs of the international community and the new tasks that it might be entrusted with as a result of the profound transformations that are now reshaping the world society. In this connection, the Secretary-General believes that the proposals of the consultant pertaining to the training functions of the

Institute in international cooperation, training of United Nations and specialized agencies staff and training for peace-keeping would assist the Organization in responding to the new demands placed upon it while meeting the needs of Member States, especially those of developing countries. Such training functions should accordingly constitute the main focus of the Institute's activities, while research, as proposed by the consultant, would be redefined primarily as a function of training. From this vantage point, the research work carried out by seconded United Nations staff and the Institute's full-time senior fellows should focus, as recommended by the Board of Trustees, on the relevant work and activities of the United Nations.

34. The Secretary-General believes that the consultant's proposal to move the Institute's main activities to Geneva warrants careful attention by the General Assembly. The proposed move may entail increased costs particularly with regard to personnel expenditures. These, however, should be weighted against the benefits accruing from Geneva's geographical location, the availability of a large number of United Nations and other international organizations at Geneva and the proximity of the International Training Centre at Turin with which UNITAR, as called for by the consultant, would be expected to interact extensively. The Secretary-General also notes that the consultant's proposal entails less a physical relocation of the Institute than a strengthening and diversification of its present most innovative and useful training work.

35. It is the view of the Secretary-General that, placing a renewed Institute under the aegis of the United Nations University would promote greater coherence in the activities of autonomous research institutes of the United Nations. This measure would ensure the long-term institutional stability and programmatic viability of the Institute. It would also enhance the academic autonomy of the Institute which would thereby benefit from the infusion of the considerable intellectual resources of the University. By the same token, one could expect that the work programme of the Institute would be the outgrowth of systematic programme-planning and implementation procedures, which would be established in accordance with the prevailing practices of the University. Should the General Assembly endorse the proposal of the consultant, the feasibility of which is predicated on satisfactory solutions to be found to the problems of the debt of the Institute to the United Nations and its long-term financing, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to request the Rector of the United Nations University to assist him in undertaking, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the charter of the University and in close consultation with UNITAR and relevant offices of the Secretariat, a set of measures including transitional provisions leading to the incorporation of UNITAR into UNU as a Research and Training Centre of the University. This transitional process should be speedily implemented and brought to a conclusion at a time coinciding with the June 1992 session of the Council of the University whose approval is required by the University's charter. These discussions would focus, among others, on such questions as the criteria of UNU for incorporation of an existing research and training entity, including programmatic scope, institutional governing and advisory structures, the disposition of the liabilities of the Institute, other than

the debt to the United Nations, the availability of reasonably assured modalities and levels of annual funding, as well as consequent action, with due regard to the welfare of the staff, to be taken on the appropriate future staffing of the Institute.

36. The Secretary-General shares the view of the consultant and the Board of Trustees that changes in the mandate and structure of the Institute are necessary but insufficient steps towards its long-term renewal. The viability of a revamped Institute ultimately hinges on the adoption of measures that would bring about a degree of stability in its financing. In that regard, the inclusion of a budgetary line in the regular budget of the United Nations, in relation to which the consultant has expressed his strong preference and which was supported by the Board of Trustees, would undoubtedly represent, subject to the concurrence of the General Assembly, a most appropriate solution to this problem, as reliance on voluntary contributions could trigger difficulties comparable to those experienced in the last years. In this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to recall that the Assembly has accepted the principle of United Nations regular budget funding in the past with respect to such autonomous research and training entities comparagle to UNITAR, as the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP). In any event, the Secretary-General is of the opinion that the Institute could not effectively function unless its General Fund benefits from sufficient and regular flows of annual contributions at a minimum level of $2 million in real terms. Within this framework and in relation to the indicative staffing structure proposed by the consultant, the Secretary-General agrees with the recommendation, also endorsed by the Board of Trustees, that the Institute be headed by an official with the rank of D-2, as this would also be consistent with the practice prevailing for other United Nations institutes. The head of UNITAR would accordingly cease to be a participant in ACC, bearing in mind, however, that it could continue contributing to the activities of its subsidiary machinery, as recommended by the Board of Trustees. In regard to the disposition of the UNITAR headquarters building, the Secretary-General agrees with the consultant that, at present, it would not be in the best interests of the Organization to sell the property in view of the conditions now prevailing in the New York real estate market. Until such time as better sale prospects arise when the UNITAR total debt to the United Nations could be liquidated, the office space made available by the move of the Institute to Geneva could be rented by the United Nations on the understanding that the income thus generated would, in the meantime, be credited against the debt of UNITAR to the United Nations . It should be noted, in this regard, that the United Nations has been renting a floor of the UNITAR building since the beginning of the summer and that the Institute's debt to the Organization is being reduced accordingly.

37. In conclusion, the problems of UNITAR have been on the agenda of the General Assembly for virtually the last 10 consecutive years. The solutions to these problems can no longer be deferred. The Secretary-General believes that present situation of the Institute has become untenable and that decisive

steps must be taken now. In this connection, the broad array of measures proposed by the consultant provide a unique window of opportunity to set in motion a process of reform and renewal which would also enable it to better serve the United Nations and the international community. Within that framework, the Secretary-General is confident that the Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, will be able to agree on definite measures within the framework of the proposals of the consultant to solve the long-standing problems of UNITAR.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/45/14).

2/ See UNITAR/EX/R.163 of 8 May 1991.

3/ See UNITAR/EX/R.151, annex.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/46/1).

ANNEX

Cooperation among autonomous research institutes of the United Nations

1. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 45/219 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to explore new modalities for greater interfacing among United Nations research bodies, and requested the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to continue to organize meetings of United Nations research institutes with a view to enhancing practical cooperation among them, particularly in regard to the formulation and implementation of their programmes and plans.

2. In compliance with the above-mentioned request of the General Assembly, the Director-General, assisted by the Rector of the United Nations University, convened a meeting of autonomous research institutes of the United Nations, which was held on 9 July 1991 at Geneva. In keeping with the practice established at the 1990 meeting, and in the light of the importance of their substantive work, invitations were also extended to a number of entities within the United Nations Secretariat. The meeting was thus attended by the United Nations University (UNU), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank (EDI) and the International Institute for Labour Studies (IILS). The following entities of the United Nations Secretariat were also represented: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Centre for Science and Technology for Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Economic Commission for Europe and the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

3. As agreed at its 1990 meeting, the discussion focused on the possible collective contribution of the research institutes to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and on the dissemination of research results. In the light of the analysis of the state of preparations for the Conference, provided by the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Maurice Strong, the participants agreed that they would continue to provide their bilateral inputs to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference and to discuss the outcome of the Conference at their 1992 meeting in order to identify ways and means through which research institutes, individually and collectively, could address, through their research, the proposals and recommendations for action emanating from UNCED.

4. It was further agreed that, in order to enable research institutes to make a collective contribution to the preparation of a major United Nations event, it was necessary to discuss the matter at least two years in advance. Equally important in this connection was the need for individual research institutes to circulate draft outlines of their programmes and budget at least one year before approval by their respective governing bodies. In the light of these considerations and after discussing various alternatives, the participants agreed to devote their 1992 meeting to the identification of possible collective contributions to the 1994 United Nations Conference on Population and Development. In that regard, and with a view to identifying the substantive focus of such collective contribution, it was agreed to solicit the advice of the Secretary-General of the Conference and its Steering Committee.

5. Following a general discussion of matters of common concern related to modality and target audiences of dissemination in the course of which it was stressed that information sharing on current and planned dissemination activities was essential to the identification of forward-looking upstream research priorities, the meeting was briefed on progress made in the preparation of the Register of Research in the United Nations system. A joint effort of the UNU and the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the Register will be implemented in a phased manner to encompass gradually the research carried out, in progress or planned by the United Nations system in science and technology as well as in the political, economic and social fields. In this connection, it was agreed that over a period of time this project should entail a gradual widening of participating institutes.